BEGINNING KOREAN: A GRAMMAR GUIDE

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Getting Started in Korean

Note: This material is optional; ask your instructor / tutor if s/he would like to review these basic phrases during the first week of class.

Listen carefully as your instructor teaches you the following greetings and classroom instructions.

Don't worry about grammar. Rather, listen to how each of these phrases sounds, and associate the sounds with what they mean and then learn how you should respond in each case.

Basic Greetings

안녕 하세요? Hello. / Greetings. (lit: Are you at peace?) annyeong haseyo?

- 네. 안녕하세요? - Yes. Hello / Greetings. ne. annyeonghaseyo?

안녕히 가세요. Goodbye! Go well. (said to one leaving) annyeonghi gaseyo.

안녕히 계세요. Goodbye! Stay well. (said to one staying) annyeonghi gyeseyo.

Classroom Instructions

들으세요. Listen(, please).

deureuseyo.

잘 들으세요. Listen carefully(, please).

jal deureuseyo.

따라 하세요. Repeat (after me).

ttara haseyo.

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대답하세요. Answer(, please). taedaphaseyo.

크게 말하세요. Speak up(, please).

크게 달아세요. Speak up(, please). keuge malhaseyo.

더 크게 말하세요. Speak louder(, please). deo keuge malhaseyo.

일어나세요. ireonaseyo.	Stand up(, please).
앉으세요. anjeuseyo	Sit down(, please).
읽으세요. ilgeuseyo.	Read(, please).
쓰세요. sseuseyo.	Write (it down, please).
칠판에 쓰세요. chilpane sseuseyo.	Write it on the chalkboard(, please).
나를 보세요. nareul boseyo.	Look at me(, please).
칠판을 보세요. chilpaneul boseyo.	Look at the chalkboard(, please).
책을 펴세요. chaekeul pyeoseyo.	Open (your) book(, please).
네. ne.	Yes.
아니오. aniyo.	No.
알겠어요? algesseoyo?	Do you understand?
- 네, 알겠어요. ne, algesseoyo.	- Yes, I understand.
- 아니오, 모르겠어요. aniyo, moreugesseoyo.	- No, I don't understand.
aniyo, moreugesseoyo.	- No, I don't understand. there any questions?
aniyo, moreugesseoyo. 질문 있어요? Are jilmun isseoyo?	

Some advice on using the course materials

- 1. PREVIEW EACH UNIT so that you have a sense of what you will be learning. Do this by (a) reading the very brief introductory notes in English (e.g., "Mr. Park tells you about his weekly schedule") and (b) scrolling down to the bottom of each unit and clicking on the footnote line entitled "What have you learned in this unit?" By taking a few moments to put the material in context, you will enhance your learning experience.
- 2. MEMORIZE EACH MONOLOGUE / DIALOGUE (as much as you can manage) before attending your class. This level of commitment—i.e., memorizing—is axiomatic to a language course. What starts off as boring and rote should gradually become more automatic and intuitive. As is the case with so many skills that require the complex union of cognitive organization and associated physical response (e.g., music, sport), a disciplined approach to language learning should foster your ultimate "ownership" of new linguistic behaviors.
- Take time to copy the monologues / Dialogues in their Korean script form.
 Doing so will not only help you to become familiar with their content, but will
 also give you extra writing practice.
- 4. JUST SAY NO TO ENGLISH. Note that there are few English-based pronunciation clues to help you; written materials are intentionally very Koreocentric. Avoid the temptation to write such clues in your notes! While it may be tough going at first, try your hardest to learn Korean using Korean.
- 5. WORK DAILY. Invest high-quality time working with the CD. Don't get into the habit of avoiding or short-changing your time with the material.
- 6. TEST YOURSELF ON A REGULAR BASIS. Use the CD's built-in self-assessment tools (flashcards, fill-in-the-blank, etc.) to gauge your progress. If you're using a textbook, give yourself vocabulary / spelling tests by covering the left half the page in the vocabulary section and then translating the English words into Korean. Take control of your own learning.

Additional notes about the CD-ROM Materials

The CD materials have been developed such that they can be either used alone or integrated with a number of college-level Korean textbooks. If you think that having an additional "back up" textbook will help you learn the material, then by all means, secure one. Multiple sources of information are great.

You should see the CD-ROM materials less as a "textbook" in a traditional sense, but more as an opportunity interact with the language at your own convenience. The CD materials allow you listen to the Korean words and phrases as often as you need to – without the inconvenience of having to rewind a tape recording – and to constantly assess your developing skills. More specific guidelines for using the CD can be found by clicking on the link labeled "instructions," which can be found on the title page of each unit.

Finally: There are a few minor errors in the CD-ROM's exercises, particularly in units 1 and 2. These are to be corrected in subsequent editions. Don't let them throw you off-track though. In fact, see if you can find them!

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Writing Unit A A Brief Introduction to the Korean Writing System, *Hangeul*

The Korean alphabet, *hangeul*, is among the most significant achievements of Korean history and culture. Among the world's writing systems, *hangeul* is special in several regards.

First, *hangeul* did not arise through happenstance: it was created in the mid 15th century through the intentional actions of Korea's Great King Sejong, whose goal was to bring the power of written expression to his subjects. Until the creation of *hangeul*, literacy in Korea was limited to the handful of men who were extended the privilege of attending royal academies where they studied Chinese literature and letters. As Great King Sejong realistically points out in his *Hunminjeongeum* (*Correct Sounds to Teach the People*), attempting to use Chinese symbols to represent the speech of Korean people was not appropriate: the two languages are very different from each other.¹

Second, *hangeul* characters are not pictographic in origin and use (as are Chinese characters), but alphabetic: each letter symbol represents a single sound in Korean. The alphabetic characters, however, are not simply arranged side-by-side, but are positioned in syllable-based units:

Third, *hangeul* was constructed by referencing a variety of linguistic and philosophical principles. The letter-shapes represent (to varying degrees) the shape of a speaker's tongue and lips as s/he produces the sounds of Korean. The shape of the letter representing the sound /g/, for example, takes the shape of the tongue as it rises up from the base of the mouth, bends as it makes contact with back portion of the roof of the mouth (near the back teeth) and points forward toward the teeth (without touching them): \(\top\). The shape of the letter representing /n/, on the other hand, roughly corresponds to the shape of the tongue as it lies flat along the bottom of the mouth but then points upward toward the back of the front teeth: \(\top\).

¹ Although modern Korean contains many words that were borrowed from Chinese, Korean and Chinese belong to different language families. In terms of their linguistic structures, they are extremely dissimilar.

Finally, *hangeul* is uniquely associated with the language, literature, and people of the Korean peninsula. No other community uses the *hangeul* system for graphically representing the sounds of their language.

Given the cleverness and economy in which *hangeul* represents the sounds of the Korean language, it has proven an excellent tool for promoting literacy among the Korean people. Indeed, Korea boasts one of the world's highest literacy rates.

Learning to read and write *hangeul* is relatively easy. That said, Korean writing is not completely "phonetic" in nature. While the writing system is straightforward, the language's rather complex system of phonological rules (processes that predictably shift the pronunciation of a sound in a particular situation) means that students of Korean need to be careful when it comes to spelling. For example, the sound /n/ is regularly pronounced like an [n] if it is followed by a vowel (or nothing) but is pronounced like an [1] if the following sound is also an /l/:

In another example, the words for 'the moon' and 'bridge' are both pronounced "dari"; they are, however, spelled slightly differently:

다리	<u>d-a</u> <u>r-i</u>	dari	'bridge'
달이	d-a-r i	dari	'the moon'

At this point in your relationship with Korean, understanding the intricacies of these processes is not critical. Rather, you need to be mindful of the fact that while the relationship between sounds and lettershapes are very close, they are not absolute. In Korean—as in English—spelling matters, so please be careful.

Writing Unit B Writing Simple Vowels in *Hangeul*

There are eight graphic symbols in corresponding to the simple vowels of Korean. Table 1 arrays these vowels in terms of their articulatory configuration. Each cell in the table includes the Korean spelling, its corresponding Romanization, and an approximate pronunciation as based on an English word.

Table 1: The Eight Simple Vowels of Korean

	tongue pushed forward	\longleftrightarrow	tongue pulled back
tongue high in the mouth	i "b <u>ee</u> t"	eu <see below=""></see>	<u>O</u> u "b <u>oo</u> t"
\uparrow	ါ e "b <u>ai</u> t"	eo "b <u>ou</u> ght"or "b <u>u</u> t"	<u>ф</u> о "b <u>oa</u> t"
tongue low in the mouth	o)] ae "b <u>e</u> t"	o}- a " <u>ah</u> "	

Notes:

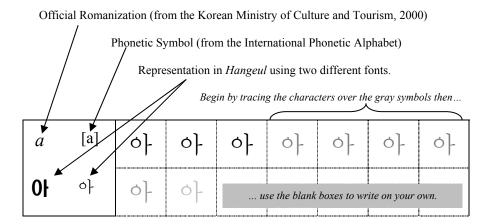
- 1. The English words accompanying each vowel are rough approximations of the corresponding Korean sounds. It is important to note that Korean vowels lack the "offglide" often heard in the pronunciation of American English vowels. It's important to listen to a native speaker produce each sound. Imitate what you hear; don't be satisfied to produce what's comfortable to you.
- 2. There is no sound in English that corresponds to Korean △. The trick it so position your mouth for the vowel † ([u]) and then un-round your lips. Smile!
- 3. In the speech of many Korean speakers, especially those living in and around Seoul, there is no clear distinction between the vowels of and off; the sound often heard is that much like the vowel in English "bet."

In writing all Korean symbols, the following general principles apply:

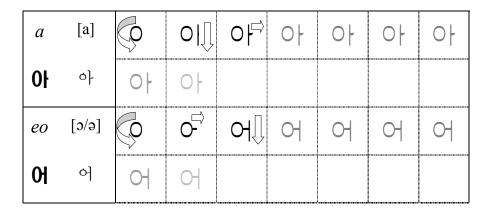
- 1. The order of strokes typically proceeds from the top left corner of an imaginary box, with higher strokes coming before lower strokes and left-hand strokes coming before right-hand strokes.
- 2. When drawing horizontal strokes, move your pen from left to right.
- 3. When drawing vertical strokes, move your pen from top to bottom.

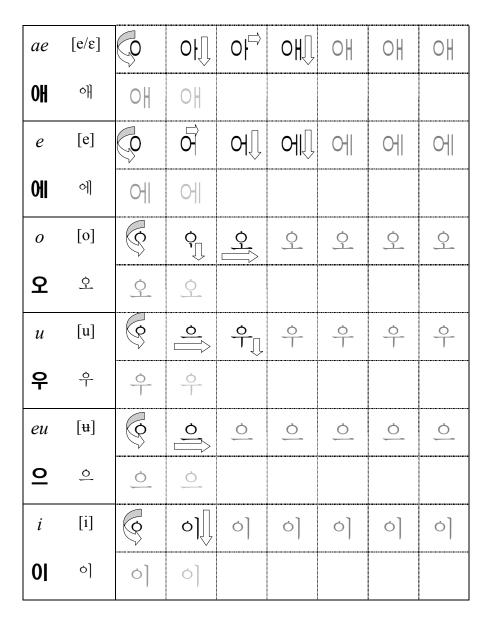
Practice writing the symbols for the simple vowels. As you do, say each vowel out loud.

Here's how to decipher each of the script boxes:



The symbol "O" represents silence; it is required when no consonant sound precedes the vowel. It is written using a single counterclockwise stroke.





Practice reading and writing the following words, each of which is made up of only simple vowels. (Note: You don't need to worry about what each word means; the goal is to improve your familiarity with *hangeul*.)

1. 오이

2. 아이 3. 아우

4. 애

5. **어이**

6. 우아

7. **0101**

8. 우어

You can verify your answers by checking the answer key on page 19.

Writing Unit C Writing Diphthongs (Complex Vowels) in *Hangeul*

In addition to the eight simple vowels, Korean includes three sets of diphthongs, combinations of a gliding sound (e.g. y) and a simple vowel.

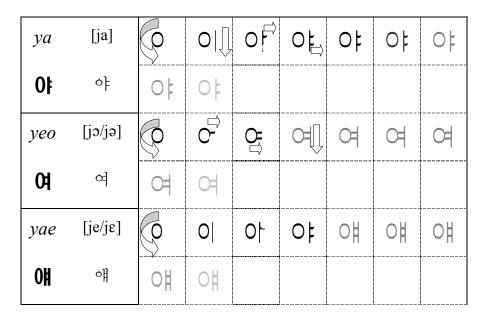
Table 2: The Diphthongs of Korean

y-diphthongs:	야 ya	야 yae	역 yeo	예 ye	요 yo	유 yu
w-diphthongs:	와 wa	왜 wae	위 weo	웨 we	의 oe	위 wi
eu-diphthong:	의 ui					

The attentive reader will notice the following:

- There are no combinations such as *yi*, *yeu*, *wu*, *wo* and *weu*. These are not allowed in Korean.
- There are two versions of *we*: 웨 and 외. These come from two different historical sources. In modern Korean, however, they are generally pronounced identically (along with 왜).

To write the diphthongs, follow the general principles of top-to-bottom, left-to-right. Practice writing the symbols for the diphthong. As you do, say each aloud. (In the diagrams below, stroke order is numbered; begin each stroke in the location of its corresponding number.)



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ye	[je]	9	O ₂ 134	예	예	예	예	예
ØI	예	예	예					
yo	[yo]	(O)	3 <u>1Q2</u>	유	유	유	효	Ġ.
요	Ġ.	Ġ	ġ.					
уи	[yu]	0	1 0 3	유	유	유	유	유
유	ਜੰ	유	Ĥ					
wa	[wa]	8	294	와	와	와	와	와
와	와	와	와					
weo	[wɔ/wə]]	(O)	1213	위	위	위	위	위
워	워	위	위					
wae	[we/we]		2191	왜	왜	왜	왜	왜
왜	왜	왜	왜					
we	[we]	6	1 0 1	웨	웨	웨	웨	웨
웨	웨	위	웨					
oe	[we]	(O)	29	외	외	외	외	외
외	외	외	외					

wi	[wi]	Ġ.	10	위	위	위	위	위
위	위	위	위					
ui	[ʉi]	6	10	의	의	의	의	의
의	의	의	의					

Practice reading and writing the following words, each of which is made up of simple vowels and diphthongs. (Note: You don't need to worry about what each word means; the goal is to improve your familiarity with hangeul.)

Writing Unit D Writing Simple Consonants in *Hangeul*

There are fourteen simple consonants in Korean. Each of these consonant sounds can be described along two dimensions:

- 1. place of articulation: where it is produced in the mouth
- 2. manner of articulation: how the air escapes from the mouth

Table 3: The Simple Consonants of Korean

	LABIAL	ALVEOLAR	PALATAL	VELAR	GLOTTAL
	closed lips	tongue behind teeth	blade & body of tongue up	body (back) of tongue up	air through throat
PLAIN STOP*	ㅂ	Г	ス	٦	
	b / p	d/t	j / ch	g/k	
ASPRIATED STOP	27	E	六	ㅋ	
(strong puff of air)	p	t	ch	k	
FRICATIVE		入			ठ
(hissing/airy sound)		S			h
NASAL	ㅁ	L		o ^	
(air through the nose)	m	n		ng	
FLAP / LIQUID*		己			
		r / 1			

^{*}According to the Ministry of Culture and Tourism's 2000 Romanization scheme, when these Korean letters appear immediately before a vowel, they are Romanized with the character to the left. Otherwise, use the character to the right.

A note about the plain stops: When the plain stops appear at the beginning of a word, they are pronounced like English p, t, ch, k – but without the "puff of air" that typically accompanies these sounds in English. Between vowels, the lax stops are voiced (i.e., the vocal folds in the voice box vibrate): b, d, j, g. At the end of a word, or when followed by another consonant, they are voiceless and unreleased.

The location of each consonant in the syllable depends on the shape of the vowel. When main stroke of the vowel is vertical (as in 이, 아, 와, 위 ...), the preceding consonant sits to the left: 마, 지, 더, 과, 쥐. When the main stroke of the vowel is horizontal (as in 오, 우, 으, 요, 유, ...), the preceding consonant sits above: 로, 주, 그, 교, 뮤.

[^]At the beginning of a syllable, o represents silence. At the end of a syllable, o represents the velar nasal sound (as found at the end of English *sing* and *long*).

To write the consonants, follow the general principles of top-to-bottom, left-to-right. In the practice tables below, you will have the opportunity to write each consonant with the vowels /a/ and /o/.

b/p	[p]	日	바	바	 	
н	日	1 4 4 3 4 3 4 3 4 4 3 4 4 4 4 4 4 4 4 4	上	上		
d/t	[t]	ヒ	다	다		
=	C	¹ → ²	도	도		
j/ch	[tʃ]	ス	자	자		
~	天	1 → 2√3	조	조		
g/k	[k]	一	가	가		
٦	刁	1	고	ュ		
p	[p ^h]	立	파	파		
п	N	$ \begin{array}{c} 1 \\ 3 \\ \end{array} $	垩	玊		
t	[t ^h]	E	타	타		
E	E	1 3	토	토		
ch	$[\widehat{\mathfrak{t}\mathfrak{f}^{\mathrm{h}}}]$	え	차	차		
*	え	1 2 3	초	초		

k	[k ^h]	勻	카	카		
=	ㅋ	¹ 2===	코	ュ		
S	[s]*	入	사	사		
^	入	¹ / ₂	소	소		
h	[h]	ゔ	하	하		
ò	ठें	² ¹ 3 0	호	Ì		
m	[m]	П	마	마		
-	口	$\downarrow \bigsqcup_{3}^{1} \bigcup_{3}^{2}$	모	上		
n	[n]	L	나	나		
L	L	¹ _ _	노			
r/l	[r/l]^	己	라	라		
2	己	1 2 ₃	로	呈		

^{*}When $\land s$ occurs before either 이 i or 위 wi, it is pronounced like the "sh" sound of English: 십 ship 'ten'; 쉽다 shwipta 'to be easy'.

[^]When \rightleftarrows occurs before a vowel, it is pronounced as r; otherwise, it pronounced as l: 파리 pari 'housefly' vs. 팔 pal 'arm'. \rightleftarrows never occurs at the beginning of a Korean word, though it can occur at the beginning of borrowed words: 로타리 rotari 'rotary'; 라이터 raito '(cigarette) lighter'.

Exercise A. Practice reading the following words, all of which are names of countries.

1.	캐나다	
2.	러시아	
3.	터키	
4.	나이지리아	
5.	오스트리아	
6.	스위스	
7.	볼리비아	
8.	아루바	
	아루바 큐바	
9.		
9. 10.	큐바	
9. 10. 11.	큐바 토고	
9.10.11.12.	큐바 토고 사모아	

Exercise B. Practice reading the following words, all of which have been borrowed from English. (Can you figure out the English equivalent?) Don't be surprised if it seems as if the Korean form sounds a bit strange to your ears; these borrowed words have been adapted to meet the linguistic requirements of Korean.

1.	테니스	
2.	위스키	
3.	커피	
4.	카 피	
5.	레코드	
6.	스키	
7.	라디오	

8.	카페	
9.	피아노	
10.	기타	
11.	스포츠	
12.	뉴스	
13.	버스	

Exercise C. Practice reading the following Korean words.

1.	포도	grape	13.	치마	skirt
2.	바보	idiot, fool	14.	바다	sea
3.	시계	watch, clock	15.	하다	to make/do
4.	가자	let's go!	16.	고추	chili pepper
5.	게	crab	17.	개	dog
6.	머리	head, hair	18.	나무	tree
7.	미래	future	19.	나비	butterfly
8.	귀걸이	earring	20.	쇠고기	beef
9.	돼지	pig	21.	되다	to become
10.	하나	one	22.	오리	duck
11.	요리	cooking (n.)	23.	우리	we
12.	네	yes	24.	아니오	no

Writing Unit E Writing Doubled Consonants in *Hangeul*

There are five doubled (tense) consonants in Korean:

Table 4: The Double (Tense) Consonants of Korean

	LABIAL	ALVEOLAR	PALATAL	VELAR	GLOTTAL
	closed lips	tongue behind teeth	blade & body of tongue up	body (back) of tongue up	air through the throat
TENSE STOP*	用用	π	双	77	_
	pp	tt	jj	kk	
TENSE FRICATIVE		从			
(hissing/airy sound)		SS			

The Korean doubled consonants are arguably unique to the world's languages. They are produced by maintaining the contact of the speech organs for a somewhat longer period of time than normal and tensing the vocal folds. There is no aspiration (puff of air) associated with these sounds.

The difference among the plain, aspirated, and doubled (tense) consonants is very important in Korean. Compare:

<u>plain</u>		<u>aspirated</u>		doubled (tense)
달 month	VS.	탈 mask	VS.	딸 daughter
불 fire	VS.	풀 grass	VS.	뿔 horn

pp	[p']	• • • •	朋}-	,		
ш	用用		単	単		
tt	[t']		,	,		
CC	ш		또			

jj	$[\widehat{\mathfrak{t}\mathfrak{f}}']$	双	짜	짜		
ᄍ	젔		쪼			
kk	[k']		까	,		
77	77		꼬			
SS	[s']		싸	,		
w	从		쏘			

Exercise A. Practice reading the following Korean words.

1. 쓰다 to use; to write 6. **바바요** s/he's busy

코끼리 elephant 7. 허리띠 belt

3. **오바** older brother* 8. 짜다 to be salty

4. 비싸다 to be expensive 9. **어쩌다** by accident

5. 토끼 rabbit 10. 기쁘다 to be happy

*older brother of a female

Writing Unit F Writing Syllable–Final Consonants in *Hangeul*

Syllables in Korean may conclude with one or two consonants. Not all combinations of consonants is allowed in this position; it is perhaps simplest to learn the possible combinations as you are exposed to words that include them.

Here are some common Korean words that include a single consonant in final position. Practice writing each.

밥	bap	'cooked rice'	되		
말	mal	'language'; 'horse'	말		
국	guk	'soup'; 'nation'	국		
삼	sam	'three'	삼		
산	san	'mountain'	산		
강	kang	'river'	강		
옷	os	'clothes'; 'dress'	옷		
빛	pich	'light'; 'color'	빛		

When any alveolar stop or fricative sound occurs at either (a) the end of a word or (b) at the end of syllable followed by another consonant, it is pronounced as a t: \$ is Romanized as 'os' but is pronounced 'ot'. \$ is Romanized as 'pich' but is pronounced 'pit'.

Here are some common Korean words that include two consonants in final position. Practice writing them.

닭	talk	'chicken'	닭		
<u>ड</u> े रा	heulk	'soil'	면에		
값	gaps	'price'	값		
읽-	ilk-	'read' (verb root)	이 -		
있-	iss-	'exist' (verb root)	o]_		
없-	eops-	'not exist' (verb root)	어.		
앉 <u>-</u>	anch-	'sit' (verb root)	아-		
닮-	talm-	'resemble' (verb root)	닯-		
짧-	jjalp-	'be short' (verb root)	짦-		

Exercise A. Practice reading the following words, all of which are names of countries.

1.	멕시코	
2.	스페인	
3.	이탈리아	
4.	케냐	
5.	포르투갈	
6.	프랑스	
7.	필랜드	
Q	아이스래드	

9. 뉴지랜드

10. 오스트레일리아

7. 연필 pencil

8. 문 door

							of which have been lish equivalent?)
1.	볼링						
2.	컴퓨터						
3.	미팅						
4.	빌딩						
5.	웬디스						
6.	버거킹						_
7.	쇼핑						_
8.	텔리비전	<u> </u>					_
9.	바이올린	<u>.l</u>					_
10	10. 슈퍼마켓						_
11	11. 넥타이						_
12	. 택시						_
Exerci	se C. Prac	tice rea	ding th	e follo	owing !	Korean w	ords.
Ι.	학교	schoo	ol		9.	대학교	university
2.	책	book			10.	교실	classroom
3.	선생	teach	ner		11.	학생	student
4.	한국	Kore	Э		12.	미국	United States
5.	있어요	exist	5		13.	공책	notebook
6.	종이	pape	r		14.	볼펜	ball-point pen

18 Autumn 2004

15. 분필

16. 창문

chalk

window

Answers to the Exercises for the Writing Units

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Writing Unit B, exercise (p. 5)
1. o-i 2. a-i 3. a-u 4. ae (rhymes with "hey," but without a "y" sound near the end) 5. eo-i
6. u-a 7. i-e 8. u-eo
Writing Unit C, exercise (p. 8)
1. yeo-u 2. oe-wi (where "oe" is pronounced like "way," but without a "y" sound near the end)
3. u-yu 4. ui-i (where "ui" begins with the uniquely Korean high-back vowel) 5. i-yu
a-ye 7. ya 8. ye 9. a-i 10. yu-ye 11. i-oe 12. wi-yu
Writing Unit D, exercise A (p. 12)
1. Canada 2. Russia 3. Turkey 4. Nigeria 5. Austria 6. Switzerland
7. Bolivia 8. Aruba 9. Cuba 10. Togo 11. Samoa 12. Tahiti 13. Burma
14. Norway
Writing Unit D, exercise B (p. 12)
1. tennis 2. whiskey 3. coffee 4. copy 5. record 6. ski 7. radio 8. café
9. piano 10. guitar 11. sports 12. news 13. bus
Writing Unit D, exercise C (p. 13)
1. podo 2. pabo 3. shigye 4. gaja 5. ge 6. meori 7. mirae 8. gwigeori
9. dwaeji 10. hana 11. yori 12. ne 13. chima 14. bada 15. hada
16. gochu 17. gae 18. namu 19. nabi 20. soegogi 21. dwaeda 22. ori
23. uri 24. anio
Writing Unit E, exercise A (p. 15)
1. sseuda 2. kokkiri 3. oppa 4. bissada 5. tokki 6. bappayo 7. heoritti
8. jjada 9. eojjeoda 10. gippeuda
Writing Unit F, exercise A (p. 17)
1. Mexico 2. Spain 3. Italy 4. Kenya 5. Portugal 6. France 7. Finland
8. Iceland 9. New Zealand 10. Australia
Writing Unit F, exercise B (p. 18)
1. bowling 2. computer 3. meeting 4. building 5. Wendy's 6. Burger King
7. shopping 8.television 9. violin 10. supermarket 11. necktie 12. taxi
Writing Unit F, exercise C (p. 18)
1. hakgyo 2. chaek 3. seonsaeng 4. hanguk 5. isseoyo 6. jeong-i
7. yeonpil 8. mun 9. daehakgyo 10. gyoshil 11. haksaeng 12. miguk
13. gongchaek 14. bolpen 15. bunpil 16. changmun
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